



August 2, 2020. The 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Part nine of "Unraveled" series.

## GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship

One: Gracious God, we bring you the broken parts of ourselves.

**All: Hem us in before and behind.**

One: Creator God, we bring you the joyful parts of ourselves.

**All: Weave us together in hope and praise.**

One: God of new life, we bring you doubt and faith knotted up in our hearts.

**All: Unravel our doubt. Weave faith into our hearts. Draw us together and point us toward you.**

One: In hope and faith we pray. In hope and faith we worship.

**All: Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, You ask us to follow you, and we respond with logistical questions—

How long? Where to? Will we return?

You ask us to love each other, and we respond with excuses—

I don't know how. We don't see eye to eye.

You ask us to dream and we get stuck in our own heads—

Change will never come. Is it worth it?

You ask us to believe, and like Thomas, we ask for proof—

Unless I see the nails in his hands, I cannot believe. Forgive us for our small-minded ways. Open our eyes as you open our hearts. Unravel our doubt. Unravel our unbelief. Lead us to rest in you. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance and Passing of the Peace

Hymn #128

"He Leadeth Me"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Musical Offering

"Down By the River to Pray"  
Curtis Fischer-Oeschlaeger

Offering and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

"Why Must Doubt Be Such A Bad Thing"  
- See Attached

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

John 20:19-29

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

Sermon

"Thomas Questions"  
Mark Swessinger

## RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Blessing

Postlude

# Why Must Doubt Be Such a Bad Thing?

A Hymn Inspired by John 20:19-29

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2019

Tune: NETTLETON

Meter: 8.7.8.7 D

Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Piano

Why must doubt be such a bad thing? Why must Tho - mas be so  
Je - sus came to see the oth - ers in a house - hold locked in  
Tho - mas came and soon re - joined them, then they said, "We've seen the  
Why must doubt be such a bad thing; seek - ing what we do not

4

Pno.

shamed? Through his trau - ma he was kept from see - ing what his friend had  
fear; showed his arms, his hands, his bo - dy, all the scars caused by the  
Lord!" But his eyes de - mand - ed see - ing Je - sus' flesh pierced by the  
know? It can help us jour - ney for - ward; aft - er all, it's how we

8

Pno.

claimed. He was in the depths of griev - ing, stuck in his own death - ly  
spear. Je - sus breathed the Spi - rit on them, passed the peace they longed to  
sword. Je - sus came and greet - ed Tho - mas, showed him he was no fa -  
grow! Faith is found in doubt - ful mo - ments, times when we can - not be -

12

Pno.

tomb. In his sor - row Tho - mas left them; soon his hid - den hope would bloom.  
know. On their knees they wor - shipped Je - sus, praised his name, their hearts a - glow.  
cade. Kneel - ing down and filled with wond - er, Tho - mas said "My Lord! My God!"  
lieve. Christ will find us all re - gard - less, more than we could e'er con - cieve!

**Pastor**

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Kent Hessman

Organist  
Michael Smith

Volunteer Financial Secretary  
Charlotte Peterson

Organist Emeritus  
Judith Litherland

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**Ministers**

All of us

**WEEKLY GPS**

**GROW**

**PRAY**

**STUDY**

**Coming Next:****"Unraveled"**

**Aug 9 Moses's Mother Relinquishes Exodus 1:22-2:10**

**Aug 16 Job Laments Job 28:12-28**

**Aug 23 The Lord's Prayer—Our Father Luke 11:1-4**

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: John 20:26**

Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you."

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>John 21:15-19</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Exodus 1:8-14</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Exodus 1:15-22</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Exodus 2:1-4</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Exodus 2:5-6</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Exodus 2:7-10</b>

**CARING CONVERSATIONS or REFLECTIONS**

- ◇ **Thinking about this week's story:** Thomas needed to see for himself, but in the end Jesus says that those who have not seen and still believe will be happy. What have you seen? What has led you to believe that Jesus is the son of God?
- ◇ **Thinking About Next Week's Story:** When has letting go of something helped you grow? When we have plans for our life, our kids, or our loved ones, and they are changed due to outside forces, what is the best way to react?

# **Two Rivers Connections**

**Subscribe to the Two Rivers e-newsletter by going to  
<http://tworiversumc.org/subscribe>**

**This week's Connections Schedule:**

**Sunday 10:30-11:30—Adult Sunday School**

**No online connections groups this week**

**Zoom Room ID: 961-006-728**

**Zoom Password: 029397**

**Phone Number: 312-626-6799**

**\*Pub Theology has a different Zoom codes.**